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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God, You are our refuge and strength, a very present help during challenging seasons. Thank You for the opportunity to serve You and country.

Use our lawmakers for Your glory. May they experience companionship with You throughout this day. Permit this fellowship with You to impart wisdom, courage, and inspiration. Make them so aware of Your presence that they will refuse to major in minors and minor in majors. Remind them that lawmakers can work miracles with cooperation but accomplish little with legislative brinksmanship. May they make the doing of Your will their highest priority.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks, the time until 10 a.m. this morning be equally divided in the usual form.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum with respect to the cloture motion on the motion to proceed to S. 534 be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided before each vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this morning the Senate will complete work on a bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security, and then we will turn to Senator COLLINS' bill—commonsense legislation that will protect our democracy from the egregious example of Executive overreach we saw in November. In my view, this deserves broad support. Remember, President Obama said more than 20 times that he couldn't take those kinds of actions. He even referred to overreach such as that as "ignoring the law." So Senator COLLINS' measure simply takes the President at his word and helps him follow the law instead of ignoring it.

The Collins' bill also provides Democrats who led their constituents to believe they would address Executive overreach with a chance to show they were at least a little bit serious when they said that. Democrats won't achieve that by filibustering Homeland Security, and Democrats won't achieve it by holding hypocritical press conferences just hours after voting to block funding for DHS. But they can help us pass a sensible bill from Senator COLLINS that will hold the executive branch to account. After so many weeks of senseless filibustering, that is the least these Democrats owe their constituents.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. REID. Madam President, we are about 14 hours away from a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. The Senate will do its part this morning and send the House a clean Homeland Security bill that fully funds the Department through the end of the year. It will stop a government shutdown. Then the House must act, and it must act responsibly. They must pass the Senate bill. We will not go to conference on some jerry-rigged situation they send back dealing with something they do not like about the President for whatever reason. We will not pass any rider-laden monstrosity they send back to us.

The Senate is proving that there is broad bipartisan support for a good, clean bill that will fund Homeland Security and keep that government agency running. It would pass this House—this legislation we are going to pass here in an hour or so—with broad bipartisan support if Speaker BOEHNER would simply allow a vote on it. If he allowed Democrats and Republicans to vote in the House, as has been done for centuries, it would pass overwhelmingly. The only point of his wanting a conference would be to take a clean bill that would pass both Houses and turn it into something that can't pass anything.

This bill we will pass today is not just the Senate's product, it is a bipartisan, bicameral piece of legislation. Last December the House and the Senate, in some very difficult negotiations, worked out an agreement where we would pass 13 funding bills as part of an omnibus spending bill. The House Republicans refused to pass the Homeland Security funding. We now have 12

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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